IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	
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Tsuyoshi Harakawa et al.	:	
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Serial No.: To be assigned	:	Art Unit: To be assigned
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Filed: Herewith	:	Examiner: To be assigned
	:	
For: WATER-BORNE COATING COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF FORMING MULTILAYER COATING FILM	:	Atty Docket: 21581/0279

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

3. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1,

wherein, in the general formula (1) or (2), R^2 and R^5 may be the same or different and each is an alkylene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenylethylene group.

4. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1,

wherein, in said general formula (1) or (2), R^3 is a branched or secondary alkyl group containing 8 to 36 carbon atoms.

5. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1, which comprises a color component.

6. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1, which comprises a polyether polyol having not less than 0.02, on average, of a primary hydroxyl group per molecule, a number average molecular weight of 300 to 3,000 and a water tolerance value of not less than 2.0.

8. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 6, wherein said polyether polyol has at least 3 hydroxyl groups per molecule.

9. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1, which comprises a polyester resin and/or an alkyd resin.

10. (Amended) A method of forming a multilayer coating film comprising: applying a water-borne base coating to an article to be coated and then applying a clear coating thereonto, followed by curing by heating,

wherein said water-borne base coating is the water-borne coating composition according to Claim 5.

12. (Amended) The method of forming a multilayer coating film according to Claim 10,

wherein said water-borne base coating has an application viscosity at 25°C of 500 to 5000 mPa · s as determined on a single cylindrical rotational viscometer at 6 rpm.

13. (Amended) A multilayer coating film obtainable by the method according to Claim 9.

Please add the following new claims.

14. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 2,

wherein, in the general formula (1) or (2), R^2 and R^5 may be the same or different and each is an alkylene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenylethylene group.

15. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 2,

wherein, in said general formula (1) or (2), R^3 is a branched or secondary alkyl group containing 8 to 36 carbon atoms.

16. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 3,

wherein, in said general formula (1) or (2), R^3 is a branched or secondary alkyl group containing 8 to 36 carbon atoms.

17. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 2,

which comprises a color component.

18. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 3,

which comprises a color component.

19. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 4,

which comprises a color component.

20. (New) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 2,

which comprises a polyether polyol having not less than 0.02, on average, of a primary hydroxyl group per molecule, a number average molecular weight of 300 to 3,000 and a water tolerance value of not less than 2.0.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Burton A. Amernick (24,852)
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425
Telephone: 202-331-7111

Date: 9-04-01

APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

3. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein, in the general formula (1) or (2), R^2 and R^5 may be the same or different and each is an alkylene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenylethylene group.

4. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein, in said general formula (1) or (2), R^3 is a branched or secondary alkyl group containing 8 to 36 carbon atoms.

5. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to [any of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, which comprises a color component.

6. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, which comprises a polyether polyol having not less than 0.02, on average, of a primary hydroxyl group per molecule, a number average molecular weight of 300 to 3,000 and a water tolerance value of not less than 2.0.

8. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to Claim 6 [or 7], wherein said polyether polyol has at least 3 hydroxyl groups per molecule.

9. (Amended) The water-borne coating composition according to [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1,

which comprises a polyester resin and/or an alkyd resin.

10. (Amended) A method of forming a multilayer coating film comprising: applying a water-borne base coating to an article to be coated and then applying a clear coating thereonto, followed by curing by heating,

wherein said water-borne base coating is the water-borne coating composition according to [any of Claims 5 to 9] Claim 5.

12. (Amended) The method of forming a multilayer coating film according to Claim 10 [or 11],

wherein said water-borne base coating has an application viscosity at 25°C of 500 to 5000 mPa · s as determined on a single cylindrical rotational viscometer at 6 rpm.

13. (Amended) A multilayer coating film obtainable by the method according to [any of Claims 9 to 12] Claim 9.